

NEW CONSERVATION DIRECTOR BRINGS EXPERIENCE TO POST

North Olympic Land Trust's new Conservation Director, Michele d'Hemecourt, likes to describe the three part-time positions she has held simultaneously since moving to the Peninsula seven months ago as broadening her understanding of "the conservation framework."



As Port Angeles Farmers Market Manager, she's been helping to market local agricultural products. Work with the region's salmon habitat restoration planning under the Lead Entity at the Clallam County Courthouse has familiarized her with the process, people and organizations in the salmon restoration grant process. Her position as the only staff member for Washington Association of Land Trusts has familiarized her with other land trusts throughout the state.

Before moving to the Peninsula, her professional work included five years with land trusts in North Carolina and Colorado, most recently as Land Protection Director for Central North Carolina for three and one-half years.

She said she is eager to put her experience locally and beyond to work with the Land Trust's role in the "conservation framework."

"I'm really excited to be working with the Land Trust community again. I have done conservation work all over the country, but I've never loved a landscape so much," she said. "I feel really lucky to be here and I look forward to making a difference in the most beautiful and ecologically diverse place I've ever been, with rich agricultural lands as well as important habitat for salmon and other wildlife."

While completing a master's degree in Environmental Management at Duke University, in Durham, N.C., she focused on conservation science and policy.

Her orientation to North Olympic Land Trust will include spending the last week of July working with current Conservation Director Allison Lutz, who will move to Bend, Ore., August 1.